Jim Lesar
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1/2/91

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the Times story that mentioned one aspect of the very fine things Gary Schoener has spent much of his adult life doing. He has been one of our favorite people for more than 20 years, an exceptional, fine and unselfish man. I hope that the reference to him as "Dr." is not just the conclusion of the reporter. He is so busy we don't hear from him often now but the last I'd heard he had not submitted his thesis because he'd not done it. He was one of the first if not the very first to testify against therapists who take advantage of their patients and he and/or his clinic one year got the top award from the American Psychiatric Association. He started that clinic when he was still at the university, if I recall correctly, and is largely responsible for its financing, too. Quite a performance! He has helped so very many people!

I've been intending to write you about something that disturbs me. If it sounds like an accusation it isn't because I do know know enough to accuse. So I report two things that may not be related. Briefly, my file folders that held my correspondence with Bud have disappeared. In the recent past I wrote him and kept a copy but did not file it immediately, probably because filing is sometimes a bit difficult. Then when I did go to file it I do not have a single file folder with his name on it. Years ago we did have a bit of correspondence and there were stories that mentioned him, things like that, that I put in those folders. There were several because there were that many items. I checked the overflow files in the basement on the chance that to make room in my small office I put them there to make space in the file cabinets because we have had so little contact and they were in effect dead files. When I did not find them, because I have more trouble with bottom file drawers and do not read their identifications well I asked Jerry McKnight when he was working in those files a couple of days ago to check and he did not see them. As I thought back and wondered who had been here who might have been interested all I could think of are Gerry Hemming and Roy Hargraves. As I think I told you, they represented that they were here for Bud, on his Ricky White interest.

Yesterday the Baltimore policemen you've met were here. They are going to Dallas and were interested in checking some pictures Al Chapman took for me years ago on the grassy knoll. I went to that file drawer, the next one, and Grassy Knoll was the first item in it from the label. Only there is no such folder in it now. So those pictures are gone. Along with whatever else I had in that folder.

I have and had no interest in embarrassing Bud and I can't think of anything other than one nasty thing he did years ago in those folders that now might be embarrassing to him. It was when his office was on 15th. One day when I was in D.C. to see a friend who was going to lend me what I needed to meet my mortgage payment, a short-time loan because I was due two checks, Bud wanted me to wait and meet some of his favorite nuts with him. I believe one was Charack. I told him I couldn't and why and he asked me how much it was. It was about $400 or $500. He asked me for how long and I told him maybe a month, maybe a few days more, and he said if I'd wait he'd lend it to me. He did. Two weeks later when I got one of the checks I sent him that money. He wrote me back a nasty letter that he did not intend to join the legion of my creditors. (Of whom, by the way, there were none.) I have no recollection of what I wrote him but compared with that it was temperate. And about two weeks later when I got the other check I paid him the balance. I did not ask him to lend me that money and I've never asked him to lend me money except by inference the one time you were present, so I could publish Whitewash IV, and you then borrowed the money and as you may recall you got the total gross income until you were repaid. As you know from your share, that was not personal borrowing because as well knew I would not be able to promote sales. I'm still surprised that I was able to get the printing cost back as fast as I did by being able to reach so many radio talk shows by phone. We have never been the way Bud put it, with anyone, ever, and your share does not have any of the costs taken

out. If we wanted to, which we don't, we'd not be able to because it is impossible to keep a separate record of them.

But other than that exchange of letters I can't think of anything that Bud would now want that was in those files. I've not even put anything relating to his Roscoe/Dicky White insanity/stupidity in those files. Whether or not Hemming could have had some interest is another matter. So also is whether or not they were here on Bud's behalf.

On an unrelated matter, I've asked you several time to return the medical file I asked you to keep when I got it from Harvey Clapp and you were about to sue Williams. I do hope you'll find time to retrieve and mail it.

We are, I suppose, about as well as we can be. Lil's arthritis is not going to go away, my hernia is gradually getting larger and I'm slowly getting weaker, I believe from the prohibitions on any exertion. But the local cardiologist today, in the fastest examination I can remember, pronounced himself satisfied. He took my blood pressure and used the stethoscope on 4-6 places and that was it.

Jerry Ray phoned the other day. He had little to say but he did say that Bud had been to see Jimmy. I hope not on some new insanity.

Let us hope that this will be a better year than any of the auguries or common sense indicates it likely.

Best to you all,

Harold